

WELFARE-TO-WORK

HANDBOOK

F. SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Child Care. Locating and affording child care can pose significant barriers to finding and keeping a job, particularly to the individuals receiving TANF. DoD has a well-established child care program, particularly for military families, that already serves some 166,000 children. Because the demand for child care spaces exceeds 299,000, the existing program cannot be expected to meet the needs of new employees from the welfare rolls. However, DoD does hope to meet some of the additional need through referral to affordable child care facilities. Activities should work with their local Child Care Development Program Director to provide assistance to new Welfare-to-Work participants. The FEB/FEA, referral organizations, or other human services organizations in the local area may also be a good source of information about child care resources.

The Office of Personnel Management recently issued the *Handbook of Child and Elder Care Resources* developed to assist managers and employees in locating organizations and resources that can help meet dependent care needs. The handbook provides information on how to find good quality child care, and updates information on national and local dependent care resources and financial assistance. The section on child care includes such information as:

- Local child care referral agencies;
- Federally sponsored day care centers;
- Financial assistance for low-income parents; and
- Federal and national child care organizations.

Appendices 15 (Local Child Care Referral Agencies) and 16 (Federally Sponsored Day Care Centers) list child care resources by state and are provided to assist activities until the complete OPM handbook is available.

The OPM handbook may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328 (ISBN 0-16-049023-5). OPM also intends to post the handbook on its electronic bulletin board and web site (<http://www.opm.gov>) in the near future.

In addition, an organization entitled Child Care Aware may be contacted to locate the child resource and referral agency in your area. It can be reached at 1-800-424-2246, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Central Standard Time.